



## AFTERSHOCK IN GAZA

Award-winning Palestinian journalist Mohammed Omer interviewed >>Pages 10&11

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Why Theresa May's clampdown will not prevent terror attacks in Britain >>Page 17



# Socialist Worker

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# GREEK WORKERS RESIST UP YOURS BANKERS

by DAVE SEWELL in Athens

**CELEBRATIONS TOOK place in Syntagma Square in front of the Greek parliament and around the surrounding streets long into the night last Sunday.**

In a referendum watched by the world, voters gave a resounding no to a new austerity deal proposed by the European Union and International Monetary Fund (see page 4).

Lawyer Tonia told Socialist Worker, "Today all of Greece is celebrating because democracy is celebrating in the place that it was born."



**'IT'S TIME to take everything back—all the things they cut in the last five years'**  
**Artemis, Athens student**

Unemployed Theodosis said, "We've made it to the finals for the European championship of class war."

People cheered and sang the songs of the revolt against Greece's dictatorship, along with revolutionary song The Internationale.

Teacher Sofia had been counting ballots at a polling station mainly used by police officers.

She told Socialist Worker, "The Yes votes just kept coming

>>continued on page 3

# AND **OXI** TO OSBORNE



GRAPHIC: TIM SANDERS



## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'This exercise is not based on any intelligence'**

Senior cop on the anti-terror training exercises last week

**'It's the first day of the bloody Ashes'**

A Treasury minister grumbles about having to go to parliament for the budget

**'Making it untidy'**

Reason construction bosses wouldn't let a Ucat union organiser onto a building site in Leeds

**'Where would we be without the exciting exhibitions of traditional Romanian folk craft, such as begging and pickpocketing'**

Daily Mail columnist Richard Littlejohn whips up some hate

**'Buying trophy babies to order'**

Littlejohn switches some of his hate towards gay men

**'Spineless nobodies on Lancashire County Council'**

The Sun is annoyed at a decision not to allow fracking



# Crooked cops and the robbery that won't die

**HOW LONG** did it take cops to work out that John Palmer, who was shot in the chest, didn't die from natural causes? Six days of investigation apparently.

Palmer, nicknamed "Goldfinger", was protected by corrupt cops for years.

In 1987, he was found not guilty in the 1983 Brink's mat robbery.

He had melted down gold bars from the robbery in his garden but had said he did not know they were stolen.

Operation Tiberius is a confidential police report from 2001 describing corruption in the Metropolitan Police.

The Met tried to hide the report for over a decade.

The report uncovered "endemic police corruption linked to major organised crime".

According to the report

Palmer ran an organisation "able to infiltrate the [police] at will in northeast and east London". It said, "Existing murder investigations have been compromised and sensitive intelligence has leaked from other organised crime investigations."

According to the report Palmer was a "close associate" of Kenneth Noye.

Noye, who fenced the gold from Brinks, also had many corrupt links to police officers. One of Noye's criminal associates was Clifford Norris. Clifford is the father of one of Stephen

Lawrence's convicted murderers, David Norris.

Noye's handler was a cop called Ray Adams. Adams was an investigator in the Lawrence murder.

The Macpherson report found no evidence of any dishonesty, collusion or corruption on the part of Adams.

In July 1987 Adams was being interviewed by police corruption investigators when his close associate DC Alan "Taffy" Holmes shot himself.

He had been working with private

investigator Daniel Morgan.

Daniel had been murdered earlier that year. They were most likely about to expose claims of police corruption that involved passing information to the News of the World newspaper.

THE Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is examining one of its investigators over corruption in the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry.

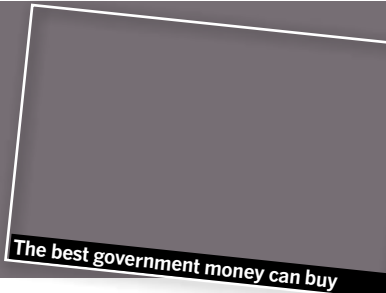
A review by an IPCC official has concluded that "there is material to suggest Roy Clark provided misleading information" to the 1998 Macpherson inquiry into police failings in the case.

Clark, a former deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, became the IPCC's first director of investigations in 2004.



John Palmer

TORY DONOR David Ross sold a replica of the "Edstone"—the giant stone tablet with ex Labour leader Ed Milliband's election pledges—for £100,000 at a summer ball last week. Some 850 guests paid £450 per ticket to the ball. The highest lot was a signed photograph of the cabinet. It raised £410,000.



The best government money can buy

GEORGE OSBORNE'S Budget planning was thrown into chaos —by a mouse roaming the Treasury. A meeting was interrupted when the rodent suddenly appeared scuttling along the top of a sofa. It is unclear what happened to the mouse after its meeting with vermin.

## Iain Duncan Smith is a louse of cards

IAIN DUNCAN Smith had his Commons credit card blocked after racking up £1,057 in expenses debts.

The welfare slasher lectures the poor but faced action when he failed to settle his own bill.

MPs use the cards to pay for travel and accommodation and end up owing money if they fail to provide monthly receipts that prove the spending was valid as expenses.

Duncan Smith's was blocked when he owed £1,057.28.

Hundreds of thousands of benefits claimants

have been sanctioned for missing appointments or being late.

Shadow work and pensions secretary Rachel Reeves had her card suspended for owing £4,033.63. The watchdog pulled the plug on shadow business minister Toby Perkins with a debt of £693.30.

Health minister Ben Gummer had his card stopped with £1,290.07 outstanding, defence minister Mark Lancaster had a £600 tab, and former universities minister David Willetts owed £1,172.05.

Ex-Labour MP Eric Joyce owed £12,919.61.



Bad credit?

## Secret police censor their own manual

THE Metropolitan Police have published the manual used to train undercover spies.

The "tradecraft" manual, given to members of the Met's Special Demonstration Squad, instructs new recruits on how to steal the identities of dead babies using methods inspired by a Frederick Forsyth novel.

The document also suggests agents should "try to have fleeting, disastrous relationships".

The document

has been heavily censored, with all but a handful of passages in the 60-page document blacked out. They didn't redact the jokes.

One passage describes what officers can expect when returning to normal Special Branch life after an undercover tour.

It says "The first thing you notice on arriving back at CO [Scotland Yard] is that you can't find anything." Followed by a series of apparently hilarious questions and answers on life as a normal copper.

A page of the manual

## Innovative rail changes in Scotland

The Scottish National Party (SNP) handed Abellio the ten-year £7 billion contract to run Scotrail last year.

But telling workers to snip off the old First logo from their uniforms, as new ones wouldn't be ready until the autumn, was a sign.

Now bosses have invited workers to make themselves redundant in a bid to squeeze staff costs.

As the then SNP transport minister Keith Brown put it, Abellio had "come up with some truly innovative ways to make rail even more affordable".



## TOFF OF THE WEEK

Princess Charlotte, gawd bless her, was baptised on Sunday, with water from the River Jordan

One side is in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the other in Jordan. Palestinian Christians complain it is difficult for them to access the holy river, so their supplies are very limited. There are minefields on the West Bank side.

## Dead for a fruit competition

THE MANAGER of a fruit storage unit in Hampshire has been sentenced for manslaughter. Two workers died while entering an oxygen-deprived storage unit to collect apples for a fruit competition.

At Blackmoor Estate, owned by Tory peer Lord Selborne, workers were encouraged to "scuba dive".

This involved entering the storage unit, which only has 1 percent oxygen, through a hatch on the roof, holding their breath as they balanced on crates of apples.

Scott Cain and Ashley Clarke died in February 2013.

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# Up yours to the bankers— Greek workers say ‘OXI’

● continued from page 1

“in. I was convinced they had won.

“When I first heard No had won I couldn’t believe it—so I jumped for joy once I knew the celebrations had started.”

Unemployed anti-racist activist Panos said, “This is a victory against a Europe where International Monetary Fund boss Christine Lagarde gets £300,000 a year while people go hungry and migrants drown at the border.”

More than 1,000 of the anti-capitalists who were central to getting the vote out marched in from the university area chanting revolutionary slogans.

Holding their banner, student Artemis told Socialist Worker, “Now it’s time to take everything back—our jobs, our dignity, all the things they cut from us over the last five years.”

The vote brought relief from the bitterness of life under austerity.

## Assault

Ana, unemployed with no benefits, said, “I have to get my food from charities—it’s an assault on my dignity.”

The vote was in defiance of concerted pressure from the banks, the media—and bosses who tried to blackmail their employees.

Ana said, “My friend believed the propaganda and told me that if we voted no we’d lose our pensions.

“I told her we’d definitely lose them if we voted for more of this.”

Depi works at state broadcaster ERT.

On the night that left wing party Syriza was elected in January, she spoke to Socialist Worker inside the studio that workers were running themselves in a fight to overturn its closure.

They have now won—but are back with their old bosses and the scabs.

Depi told Socialist Worker, “They made threats about what would



ACTIVISTS CELEBRATE the result (above) Graffiti for the No campaign (below)

PICTURES: SOCIALIST WORKER



happen to us if Yes won. It would have meant the bosses’ revenge.

“My friend works for the council radio station, and she was told she’d be fired if she talked about the No campaign.

## Propaganda

“The private channels poured out propaganda, the regulator did nothing.

“There was a lot of blackmail. But people have seen they have the power.

“Now I’m very happy, it’s a big victory and an historic night.”

Some of those backing the Yes campaign made no secret of wanting

to topple the government—and this hardened many workers’ resolve to defend it.

Nikos Maliaris, a well-known former footballer who now organises Syriza’s athletes group, told Socialist Worker, “It’s a big expression of solidarity for the government. Now we have to build on this unity.”

But while the government is using the referendum as a negotiating tactic to get a slightly better deal with less austerity, many people were voting no to austerity at all.

Artemis said, “Now it’s time to press the Syriza government not to make a new agreement but to end austerity and leave the EU.”

## Thousands join protests in solidarity

WORKING CLASS people across the world showed solidarity with people in Greece in the run-up to the referendum.

Some 500 people rallied in central London last Saturday. Many Greeks joined the protest.

Protester Maria said, “I don’t care if we leave the EU—I think we’d be better off with the drachma.

“Not everyone who will vote no is on the left but people are desperate and angry against austerity.”

Over 800 people joined a protest at the European Commission offices in Edinburgh last Saturday and marched to the Scottish parliament.

Marchers chanted, “From Scotland to Greece—no justice, no peace!”



The rally in London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Myrto from Syriza Scotland said, “OXI has sparked a global movement of solidarity and resistance. This is just the beginning.”

Around 500 protested in Glasgow on Thursday of last week.

Protesters chanting, “OXI!” interrupted a speech by German chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin last Saturday.

Hundreds more protested in Melbourne. And thousands marched in Dublin last Saturday chanting, “Athens, Athens we’re with you—we’re against the Troika too.”

Solidarity protests also took place in Paris, Warsaw, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Barcelona, Rome and Brussels.

## Yemen bombing intensifies

SAUDI ARABIA has intensified its bombing of Yemen. Saudi forces killed over 100 people, including civilians shopping at a market, on Monday of last week.

The three-month bloody assault is an attempt to block the rise of forces the Saudis see as allies of its rival in the region, Iran.

## Crackdown on Egyptian press

EGYPT’S military-backed regime has proposed a new law to ban what it calls “false news”.

It wants to make it a crime for journalists to publish figures of casualties from “terrorism” that don’t tally with the regime’s numbers.

## Victory for German strike

WORKERS AT the Charite hospital in Berlin ended an indefinite strike on Friday of last week after bosses agreed to reduce workload by hiring more staff.

Their dispute has been part of a major strike wave in recent months against low wages in Germany.

## Migrant deaths mount in Calais

A REFUGEE was killed in the Channel Tunnel on Tuesday of this week. It was the fourth death among migrants trying to reach Britain from the French port of Calais since the beginning of June.

An unofficial strike by ferry workers last week led to thousands of lorries queuing for days to cross the Channel.

## EYEWITNESS IN ATHENS

● Celebrations after the result [bit.ly/1fjWWuU](http://bit.ly/1fjWWuU)

● Campaigning for No [bit.ly/1dJBNZh](http://bit.ly/1dJBNZh)

● Rally defies the bosses’ blackmail [bit.ly/1JRju05](http://bit.ly/1JRju05)

● Dockers and cleaners speak out [bit.ly/1HaPHeG](http://bit.ly/1HaPHeG)

● Anti-capitalists march [bit.ly/1dJWG6R](http://bit.ly/1dJWG6R)

● Hospital workers want to take control [bit.ly/1G4Xmdl](http://bit.ly/1G4Xmdl)

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# Workers in Greece defy bankers' blackmail

Millions refused to be bullied—now their struggle can inspire resistance, writes **Dave Sewell** in Athens

**THE GREEK referendum result is a blow to every politician, banker and boss who wants to impose austerity on workers.**

Working class people in Greece defied all of the European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund's (IMF) propaganda and intimidation.

Their "Project Fear" was intense—and virtually the entire Greek ruling class lined up behind them.

Many bosses have been reported for trying to blackmail their employees into voting yes.

But ordinary people refused to be bullied into accepting their rotten deal.

Despite the bank shutdown, limits on daily cash withdrawals and threats of money running out, people rejected the EU's latest austerity package.

## Union

Costas Pittas, trade union secretary at the ministry of development, told Socialist Worker, "It's a great victory—and the vote came from the working class and poor."

"The No vote was enormous in the poorest suburbs of Piraeus port and in the northern regions where the Turkish minority live."

The result will inspire millions of ordinary people across Europe and

## BACK STORY

**The big No vote in Greece last weekend is a serious setback for bosses and rulers across Europe**

● Syriza prime minister Alexis Tsipras called a referendum after months of dead-end negotiations

● But Greece's creditors don't want a compromise

● Tsipras now wants to use the result as a bargaining chip in new negotiations

● But workers' radicalisation means they could push this much further to break with austerity deal

beyond because it shows that austerity isn't inevitable.

This is what terrifies the ruling class. Our rulers want people to believe that there is no alternative—that without slashing pay and welfare, privatising public services and paying the bankers the world would end.

They don't want ordinary people under the cosh of austerity in Spain, Italy and elsewhere to get the idea that they can reject the EU's demands.

EU leaders were meeting to discuss their response, as Socialist Worker went to press.



HUNDREDS pour from the metro into Athens' Syntagma Square to defy the bankers on Friday of last week

PICTURE: WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

With such a resounding vote the initiative—for now—is with the working class. Yet Greece's left wing prime minister Alexis Tsipras referred to it as giving him "greater negotiating strength".

## Leadership

His Syriza party leadership is looking for a new deal instead of rejecting the EU and its demands entirely.

Costas said, "There's no way workers already in struggle, such as the dockers and hospital workers, will stop if Syriza signs up to a new deal.

"We will all organise to fight it."

Leading Syriza left winger Stathis Kouvelakis told Socialist Worker that this insistence on staying in the eurozone and EU is a weakness for the government.

He said shutting Greeks banks off from funding "has been used to blackmail Syriza all along—and it looks as if that blackmail will continue."

He added, "But we have to ask the question what we can do about it. And we need to seriously consider the possibility of setting up a new drachma currency."

Workers across Greece organised and protested. They have taken part

in 32 general strikes since the onset of the economic crisis.

They have the opportunity to challenge the notion that paying the bankers is more important than paying pensions or funding health care. And they can start to take control themselves.

Print worker and Syriza-supporter Giorgos said, "It's like in our occupation. They've got the big guns—but we've got the masses."

## On other pages...

Building on Oxi vote can win real change >> **Page 6**

## Vote boosts workers' confidence

PEOPLE IN Greece are elated with the result. They have said no to austerity and showed they are prepared to stand up to the bankers' pressure.

But the political leadership is out of touch with this mood—and ignoring the victory of the No.

Leaders of all the political parties have signed a joint statement that starts by saying the result is not a mandate to break with the European Union

New finance minister Euclid Tsakalotos was on his way to Brussels with a new proposal for an agreement as Socialist Worker went to press. It is closely based on the one prime minister Alexis Tsipras couldn't sign two weeks ago.

But there will be a revolt if they try to implement any of this. The EU leaders know this well—and are trying to come up with a scheme to release money only as cuts and privatisations are implemented.

There's tremendous pressure to do this before parliament ends for summer.

Any of these measures will face stiff opposition. The no vote means people are more confident than before. Everyone in every workplace knows that they will not be alone if they resist cuts, privatisations and sackings.

For all the wheeling and dealing in Brussels, that's what will happen if they go ahead with this new agreement.

**Panos Garganas**

## Bailout money goes back into the bosses' pockets

EUROPE'S BOSSES are still determined to crush any attempt by Greece to break with austerity.

German economics minister Sigmar Gabriel said the No vote had "torn down the last bridges on which Greece and Europe could have moved towards a compromise".

But the Institutions—the European Union (EU) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)—were never interested in compromise.

They painted Greeks as "feckless" and "lazy".

The German special envoy to Greece claimed in 2012 that it took 3,000 Greek workers to do the work of 1,000 Germans.

The money Greece receives goes straight back into the pockets of bankers who loaned it.

That's where the roots of the crisis lie.

German bosses suppressed workers' wages in the 2000s.

This built up a huge surplus of cash—so they loaned the money to southern European countries.

This kept profits coming in

from German exports.

But this made Greece particularly exposed when the crisis hit.

The bankers began jacking up their interest rates, sending the debt soaring.

The same banks were bailed out during the crisis.

Greek workers have suffered under austerity—they should default on the debt.

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

## WE NEED A PARTY THAT LOOKS TO THE CLASS

TIME AND again the Greek working class has shown its ability to challenge the bosses. And the massive referendum vote against austerity sent new shudders through Europe's ruling classes.

The left party Syriza has given voice to millions who have suffered the harshest assaults on their living conditions because of capitalism's crisis.

It was elected in January after workers' struggles and grassroots resistance to austerity.

The British media describe Syriza as "controversial" and dub prime minister Alexis Tsipras a "firebrand". They patronise Labour leadership candidate Jeremy Corbyn in the same way.

Political commentators find it hard to accept any deviation from the "common sense" that cuts are necessary.

But for millions of people it's been a breath of fresh air to hear some politicians arguing there's an alternative to working class people paying for the crisis.

That feeling is not confined to Greece. We witnessed it in Britain when the Scottish National Party won a landslide in Scotland in the

general election.

Its leader Nicola Sturgeon and its candidates spoke out against cuts and Trident nuclear weapons.

As anti-austerity views were given a platform within official politics it boosted all those who wanted to oppose Tory attacks.

But there is a problem. If mass working class support is used only as a bargaining chip to win small concessions from capitalism, the spirit of resistance can lose its potency.

Syriza won a stunning victory in the referendum. But there is a danger that the party's leaders will go back and try to do another deal.

Any reforms they win are important—they can make a

**“If resistance is used only as a bargaining chip it can lose its potency**

difference to people's lives.

But any compromise that makes workers pay for the crisis can create confusion and demoralisation.

That's why we need a different sort of political organisation—one that can mount a fundamental challenge to the system.

Revolutionary socialists fight for solidarity for every struggle to win change—whether it is a pay rise, stopping a pension cut or job loss.

We want to build a party rooted in those struggles, which can bring together the most militant workers and activists.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) sees the organised working class as the force that has the power to challenge austerity.

But when the collective power of workers is mobilised, anything is possible. At present, our labour is used to make profit but instead we could be working to satisfy the needs of the many.

We don't need to be satisfied with just a few crumbs from the capitalists' table. Workers have the potential to bring capitalism down and build a socialist society based on human need.

To join us in that struggle start by filling out the form on page 16.

## TORY SPIN ON LOW PAY

THE EDITORIAL in the Daily Telegraph newspaper last week gave a glimpse into the thinking of the right.

It pronounced, "socialism has consequences". It drew a straight line from the introduction of tax credits by the last Labour government to the Greek crisis.

This is a concerted attack from the top as George Osborne was set to slash tax credits in the budget this week.

Whatever his spin, the Tories don't care about workers' low pay.

Only 40 percent of those entitled to tax credits claim them—and the Tories have already made them worth less and harder to claim.

But any cut in tax credits would reduce the incomes of 45 percent of working families. The majority—72 percent—of the losers earn less than £20,000.

It would reduce their incomes by an average of £1,400 per year.

The right wing Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank says the cut would increase the number

of children living in poverty by 300,000.

Labour brought tax credits in to subsidise low pay and therefore cut unemployment. And Labour wasn't averse to massaging the poverty figures. But the Tories now want to attack them out of spite to encourage poverty.

This is not about cutting deficits or balancing the books—it is attacking the poor.

Resistance is what's needed. It is the only real way to increase wages.



Last Friday's rally boosted people's confidence to fight the bosses' intimidation

PICTURE: WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

## FIGURE IT OUT

**£236 billion**

The amount of money that Greece needs to be bailed out

**£226 billion**

The amount that Deutsche Bank got bailed out by taxes

**£17 billion**

The amount that German banks have at stake in Greece

FOR MANY Greek workers the struggle isn't for a slightly less brutal austerity deal.

While the banks remained shut and the government drifted closer to bankruptcy, some workers demanded an alternative.

Radiologist Christos Arghyris told Socialist Worker, "At work and at the polling station, people want



Christos Arghyris

to talk about workers' control—taking over the hospitals, the banks, everything."

Trainee surgeon Zanneta had a similar experience. She said, "We're having really political conversations about the EU and the debt—and the need for workers' control."

Nurse Maria added, "We want free public healthcare. "We want control of our lives and our workplaces. We will have to take to the streets to demand it."



## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## Building on OXI vote can win real change

**THERE ARE historical moments when the normal rush of events comes to a standstill. These are often occasions when the usual relations of power are reversed, the mighty humbled, and the poor and needy uplifted.**

So it was in Greece on 5 July 2015. The scale of the victory of those campaigning for OXI—no to more austerity—must have exceeded their wildest expectations.

Greece has, in relative terms, the largest radical left in Europe. It has been hardened in struggle—against Nazi Occupation and Civil War during the 1940s, against the monarchy in the 1960s, against military dictatorship in the early 1970s, against neoliberalism and austerity ever since.

But the OXI score of 61.3 percent went way beyond the normal boundaries of the left. This was a vote that reached deep into Greek society.

And it was achieved with the European and local ruling classes and all the private media in the Yes camp, with a campaign of fear that started when the European Central Bank (ECB) forced the closure of the Greek banks.

What we saw was what the Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci had in mind when he wrote about hegemony—the revolutionary left developing the political and organisational ability to offer leadership to society at large.

And there's the rub. For the architect of the referendum, Alexis Tsipras, is no Gramsci. He called the referendum to get himself out of a hole.

The Eurogroup of eurozone finance ministers, backed up by the "Institutions"—the ECB, European Commission, and International Monetary Fund—was unrelenting in its demands for more austerity.

Meanwhile the governing party, Syriza, was divided over how to respond. Brussels was sniffing around the parties of the centre in the hope of constructing a government of "national unity" with the Syriza right wing.

It is a sign of the political ineptitude of Syriza's enemies that they had apparently tapped Yannis Stournaras, governor of the Bank of Greece, to head this government.

### Manoeuvre

Their humiliating defeat in the referendum has blown away these plans. It will also increase Tsipras's authority over his own party and give him more bargaining power with the Eurogroup. All in all, this has been a brilliant manoeuvre.

But is it more than that? Tsipras's record is that of tactical improvisation rather than a coherent strategy.

This was evident on Tuesday of last week when he briefly threw things into confusion by writing to the "Institutions" accepting almost all their demands. Now he has given the Eurogroup a peace offering in the shape of the head of his finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, whom they loathed.

This doesn't bode well.

There's no sign that the European Union (EU)—and above all its key leader, German chancellor Angela Merkel—will reciprocate. They've been humiliated too, but then they have been in the past by referendums in France, the Netherlands, and Ireland. Contempt for democracy is inherent in the noble European project.

The Greek masses exerted control of their destiny last Sunday. To make this more than a fleeting moment they will need to continue, and to demand that their government draws the logical consequences of the No victory.

This means breaking with the eurozone, taking permanent control of the banks, introducing a new currency, and using the power of the state to keep the economy running.

Firms that threaten to lay off workers should be nationalised under workers' control. These measures are no longer socialist utopia—they are a practical necessity.

To implement this programme the No campaigns in neighbourhoods and workplaces must carry on.

We've seen divisions on the left weaken, as activists from Syriza and the Anticapitalist Front Antarsya worked together around the referendum, and Communist Party voters largely ignored their leaders' foolish call to abstain.

The greater the self-organisation on the ground, the greater the power of the No camp to counter the chaos the EU is trying to inflict, and to overcome the government's vacillations. By their actions, those in the radical left in Greece have created an unprecedented opportunity.

They must seize it and make history.



BROMLEY COUNCIL workers walked out on Tuesday of this week

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

# Coordinated walkouts show how to challenge the Tories

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

**WORKERS leading resistance to austerity and privatisation will show union leaders what needs to be done.**

From Glasgow to Bromley in London, public sector workers are coordinating their strikes on Wednesday of this week.

They will send a message that workers can resist the Tories' declaration of class war.

"This is coordination from the bottom up," Barnet Unison union branch chair Helen Davies told a rally to organise solidarity and defend trade unions.

The rally was called by Unite the Resistance last week.

### Hell

Apart from the hell set to be unleashed by George Osborne's budget (see page 7), the Tories propose a new Trade Union Bill to further shackle workers' rights to strike.

Council workers in Barnet and Bromley, in London, were both set to be part of the day of strikes.

Both face Tory neoliberal experiments that seek to privatise virtually everything.

In Bromley the workforce is to be cut from 4,000 to 300. And in Barnet 80 percent of jobs are to be outsourced.

Bosses are also attacking trade union facility time.

The Unite union said Bromley council is "doing all it can" to stop branch secretary Kathy Smith carrying out her role as a trade union rep.

Barnet Unison successfully beat off similar attacks in the last few years.

Local councils in England face a £3.3 billion funding cut for local services in 2016/17.

Attacks on workers, their unions and the services they run will only intensify.

But the problem goes beyond England. The



Helen Davies at the meeting

Glasgow homelessness case-workers are now in their fifteenth week of an all-out strike over pay. They will join the Budget day strikes against Tory cuts.

A delegation will link with strikers in Bromley, Barnet and the workers at the National Gallery resisting privatisation to march together in London against austerity.

National Gallery workers plan a 3-day strike from Tuesday of next week.

Tube and rail workers are also set to strike on budget day (see page 20).

### Confidence

This kind of coordination boosts workers' confidence and builds solidarity.

It also gives an example of the kind of action that, if built on nationally, could beat the rotten Tory government.

Union leaders should be calling much more action against the Tories—and workers getting organised can put pressure on them to do that.

National Gallery PCS union rep Candy Udwin told last week's rally, "We need national strikes when they discuss the Trade Union Bill."

"If they're scared of resistance—we need to give them more."

## Don't wait for Labour

PCS UNION general secretary Mark Serwotka told last week's Unite the Resistance rally, "At a leadership level our movement has failed in the last five years."

He said to "never underestimate what fighting unions can do."

And he said the movement needed a "coalition of the willing" to lead a fight.

Bfawu union president Ian Hodson agreed. "The TUC can't bury

its head in the sand or there will be no trade unions left," he said. "We cannot wait for a Labour government."

Scottish National Party (SNP) MP Chris Stephens criticised Labour. He said the continuing dispute of the homelessness caseworkers was "a scandal".

Striker Marie said people voted SNP because it talked about opposing austerity. She said, "Well, let's see some anti-austerity then."



Ian Hodson



**Got a story?**

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)



# ‘Howls of protest’ as Tory budget targets poor

by SADIE ROBINSON

**MILLIONS OF working class people began this week in fear as Tory chancellor George Osborne prepared for his budget.**

The budget, on Wednesday of this week, will pile more misery onto ordinary people.

Some of the most savage attacks will target disabled people. Osborne confirmed plans to snatch a further £12 billion from the welfare budget and admitted some cuts would be “controversial”.

Rosemary Boon from Oxfordshire receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Employment Support Allowance. She estimated that she could lose over £100 a month depending on where the cuts fall.

Rosemary told Socialist Worker, “I was a carer for my mum for 13 years. I hoped I would be fit enough to return to work later. But my doctor said I was physically and mentally worn out.”

## Food

Rosemary said any cuts to her income would mean cutting back on food. She turns 60 the day after the budget and would have retired this year—had the Tories not changed the retirement age.

Now she fears being assessed and losing her DLA.

“I’m riddled with arthritis,” she said. “I’m dreading being forced back to work. It hurts to walk, it hurts to stand and even lie down. Never a day goes past that I’m not in acute pain.”

Angela Haines from Cardigan, Wales, can’t work because she has lung disease and is currently fighting to keep her DLA. She told Socialist Worker, “My 20 month old

## BACK STORY

**Massive cuts are planned in the Tory budget this week**

- It will slash the welfare cap from £26,000 to £23,000 in London and down to £20,000 elsewhere

- Osborne has confirmed plans to grab a further £12 billion from the welfare budget

- Cuts to tax credit could push 500,000 more children into poverty in Scotland alone

- The Tories have scrapped the target to eradicate child poverty

granddaughter is the only thing that is stopping me from taking my life. Seeing her gives me a bit of hope.”

Angela receives £125 a week in benefits but expects this to drop to £95 after the budget. “One year of Tory minister Iain Duncan’s Smith’s salary could support me, on what I receive at the moment, for over 20 years,” she said.

Osborne was right to say the cuts would lead to “howls of protest”. The People’s Assembly has called for a national day of protests on budget day against the cuts. And Disabled People Against Cuts activists plan a protest at Downing Street from 10.30am.

As Rosemary put it, “There should be no children in poverty, no homelessness and no one starving. Benefits are what we are entitled to, not a hand out.”

“Cameron and his cronies won’t get the better of me. We all need to stand together and say enough is enough.”

Go to [thepeoplesassembly.org.uk](http://thepeoplesassembly.org.uk) for details of budget day protests

## MARCH ON THE TORIES

ORGANISED BY THE TUC

The People’s Assembly will also be hosting a week of protests and events at the Tory Party conference in Manchester 4 Oct - 8 Oct

10 AM SUN 4 OCT MANCHESTER

**WORKING CLASS people are in fear of what George Osborne’s (above) budget will mean for them**

## If Osborne’s cuts go through, millions could be driven into further poverty

THE BUDGET will slash the welfare cap from £26,000 to £23,000 in London—and is expected to cut it to £20,000 elsewhere.

Osborne claimed his budget is for “working people”. He said the attacks were “a simple matter of fairness”.

In reality many “working people” in jobs are forced to claim benefits because their wages are already too low. Now many of these benefits, including tax credits, housing benefit, disability benefits and income support, look set to be slashed.

## Work

And for all the talk of an economic recovery, many people can’t find work. Others aren’t well enough to work.

Osborne whined that it isn’t right that benefit claimants can receive more than people in work. But much of the money doesn’t go to claimants—it is sucked up by private landlords who keep hiking up rents.

And if the Tories cared about workers’ wages they wouldn’t be imposing pay cuts and freezes on millions of public sector workers.



Protesting against the Tories in London

Osborne claimed the budget would help low-paid workers because anyone earning £12,500 a year would pay no tax. But no one should be earning just £12,500 a year in the first place.

The Tories had already announced a freeze on most working age benefits and tax credits for two years.

They plan to snatch housing benefit from unemployed 18–21 year olds.

Osborne also threatened that some people in council and housing association homes would be forced to pay market rents “if they want to stay in their homes”.

The Tories want to make life harder for such tenants partly to make the right to buy scheme more attractive. Ultimately this will mean there will be no council or social housing left for people in the future.

If the cuts go through they threaten to drive millions more people into poverty. Cuts to tax credits are estimated to push a further half a million children into poverty in Scotland alone.

But the Tories have a way to deal with this.

## Target

They have scrapped the target to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and they will focus less on “material disadvantage” when assessing poverty.

Instead they will talk up things that help them whip up hatred towards poor people—such as “addiction” and “worklessness”.

The reason for the cuts is political.

Osborne let slip that the Tories want a “budget surplus”. So the problem isn’t lack of money to fund services, benefits or decent wages. It’s that the Tories don’t want to spend it.

# Dundee porters beat bosses with all-out strike over low pay

A victory for hospital workers after a 13-week battle shows that strikes can win, reports Raymie Kiernan

**DUNDEE HOSPITAL** porters took on their bosses over low pay with a 13-week all-out strike—and they have won.

The workers at Ninewells and Royal Victoria hospitals had been fighting to be placed in the same pay grade as most other porters in Scotland.

They voted to end the strike at a mass meeting last week after winning a wage rise of around 7 per cent—an extra £16 a week to low paid NHS workers.

That will rise to around £40 a week once they reach the top of their new pay band.

Porters have also been offered a lump sum payment. This meets their demand for compensation for years of being on a lower grade than other NHS-employed porters in Scotland.

And those who were employed on fixed term temporary contracts have now been given permanent posts.

## Backdated

All their terms and conditions have been backdated to the day they started.

Porter and Unite union rep Ronnie Heeney told Socialist Worker, “I was a band one porter when we walked out and during the strike 14 porters on temporary contracts lost their jobs.

“But now I am going back to work with better pay on band two, and the 14 guys now have permanent jobs.

“We’ve proved that is worth standing up against austerity.”

Ronnie believes the porters decision to pile pressure on the Scottish National Party (SNP) made a difference.

## BACK STORY

**Porters at Ninewells and Royal Victoria hospitals in Dundee began an all-out strike in April**

● They were fighting to be moved from “grade one” to “grade two” pay band—the grade that most porters in Scotland are on

● Bosses at NHS Tayside had refused to budge. And SNP health minister Shona Robison didn’t want to get involved

● But the strikers stayed solid—and support flooded in for their dispute from other workers

Health is devolved to the Scottish government and SNP health minister Shona Robison is the Dundee MSP.

Porters began picketing her constituency office last week after they felt she was blocking a deal.

Ronnie said, “We got a big lesson in what the SNP is all about. Anti-austerity? I don’t think so.

“Shona Robison distanced herself from our dispute, but I think our protests built real pressure.

“Neither Labour or the SNP ever visited our picket lines in support—only the socialists did.”

It is brilliant that the porters have won. But the struggle against austerity continues.

The news of the victory needs to be spread.

The next time someone argues strikes don’t work, tell them about the Dundee porters.



## More online

For a longer report go to >>[bit.ly/1exNtPt](http://bit.ly/1exNtPt)



STRIKERS AND their supporters on the picket line

PICTURE: SUPPORT NINEWELLS PORTERS

## HEALTH SERVICE

# Bullying is ‘embedded’ in the London Ambulance Service, says new report

HEALTH WORKERS face an epidemic of “bullying and harassment” from their bosses.

That’s the shocking conclusion of an independent report produced for the London Ambulance Service (LAS) published last week.

Some 68 per cent of those surveyed reported bullying, with most saying it came directly from either line managers or senior management.

The authors concluded that harassment is “embedded” in the service, and that bullies are seen to be promoted rather than investigated.

Some 66 per cent of respondents had experienced verbal abuse, with a further 5 per cent suffering “physical aggressive contact”.

LAS now has a chronic problem attracting new workers and

holding on to its most experienced staff.

The survey team reports workers saying they are, “Demotivated and angry”, “Leaving the station as a result”, and, “I now hate the service I work for and can’t wait to leave.”

## Promotion

One worker said, “Some of the most unpleasant bullying managers have seen rapid promotion within the organisation over the past 10-15 years.

“Bullying gets you recognised and gets you career progression.”

Managers who try to act in a more humane way have found themselves attacked by senior colleagues for being soft.

The report notes, “Even the number of times managers have

called staff while absent [sick] is recorded and is reported as being ‘pored over’ by those at a very senior level.”

The report said there is a “climate of fear” within LAS that could have a terrible effect on both staff and patients.

Health workers across Britain will recognise their working lives in parts of the report.

With the Tories demanding more than £20 billion of “efficiency savings” we can expect more management intimidation.

The authors of the report argue for an independent body to take on bullying in LAS. The real answer is that health unions must prove themselves to up to the job of defending their members and the service they provide.

**Yuri Prasad**

## Oxford porters set to fight

PORTERS IN the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford have voted overwhelmingly to strike against bosses’ attacks on pay.

Workers were seconded to outsourcing giant Carillion.

Bosses are trying to impose “static” instead of “rotary” shifts onto workers and slash the number of dispatcher jobs.

These attacks would mean workers lose pay.

And they would have less flexibility in planning their shifts.

Bosses have also suspended two union reps.

One of those is Imran from the Unison union. He told Socialist Worker, “One of our members was bullied, had a panic attack and ended up in the accident and emergency (A&E) department.

“We challenged management, but now we’ve been suspended.”

The full ballot results were set to be announced as Socialist Worker went to press.



## No to EU, No to Nato

STOP THE War Coalition should mount an Out of Europe—Out of Nato campaign in the European Union (EU) referendum.

This would ensure a left presence distinctive and impossible to confuse with Ukip.

And it is a necessary campaign.

The EU is the civilian arm of Nato, formally uniting Western capitalism and Western militarism under US hegemony.

Nato is a predatory military alliance that masquerades as the “international community” and it gives the US military support for its aggressive adventurism in the Middle East.

The EU referendum gives the left an opportunity to raise public awareness of issues which without it would be much more difficult to raise.

Malcolm Pittcock  
Bolton

## Bosses split over EU vote

SOCIALISTS SHOULD not fall out with each other over how to vote in the European Union referendum.

The ruling class is so split on how to make capitalism work they are giving us “plebs” a vote.

This gives socialists a platform on which to argue that capitalism is always doomed to fail.

Personally, I’ll probably just spoil my ballot by writing “yes to international socialism” on it.

Hugh Parsons  
Swansea

## Class struggle needs ideas and organisation

THE RECENT heatwave may well remind graduates of long days reading and socialising on campus lawns. I did not go to conventional “uni”, so I applaud those who did.

I consider the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) to be my own form of university, and the Marxism Festival is my campus lawn.

Here I meet graduates and those like me with a less formal education. We mix seamlessly, united in



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

# Our resistance to big firms shows how to beat fracking

PROTESTERS WON a landmark victory last month when Lancashire county councillors threw out the proposal to start fracking for shale gas at Little Plumpton near Blackpool.

This was after planning officers had recommended approving energy firm Cuadrilla's application. Legal advice was taken after a tied vote the week before had said that the proposal should be approved.

Our victory was due in no small part to the size, energy and organisation of the protest movement against fracking in Lancashire.

Months of determined campaigning countered Cuadrilla's pressure on the councillors. Three

days of protest inside and outside County Hall hearings meant some councillors changed their position over the weekend ahead of the vote.

Shamefully, two of the votes for Cuadrilla came from Labour councillors Marcus Johnstone and Munsif Dad. The latter is also a member of the Unite union, which has come out against fracking.

The hundreds who reassembled on Monday 29 June greeted the decision with jubilation.

A carnival mood seized Preston town centre as the celebration turned into a march to spread the news to disbelieving lunchtime workers and shoppers.

Cuadrilla will be back with appeals and further proposals but

the anti-fracking movement in Lancashire, which has 39 local campaign groups, is confident that it can be defeated.

It is clear to us as founding members of Keep East Lancashire Frack Free (Kelff) that the alliance of socialists, trade unionists, environmentalists and anti-capitalists has created a powerful movement of resistance to the big energy firms.

The issue has become linked to defending democracy against the onslaught of big business and fighting the Tories and austerity.

The message from Frack Free Lancashire this week is resist, unite and fight back—it works!

Andy Makin and Maggie Smith  
Burnley, Lancashire

## ‘Serious failings’ over college payoffs

SINCE 2010, funding to Scottish FE colleges has been cut by £54 million with a loss of 4,000 staff and approximately 60,000 fewer students.

Many old colleges have been merged and outgoing college bosses have enriched themselves.

Between 2011 and 2014 £7.6 million was spent on 69 senior managers' redundancy packages—an average of £110,000 each.

Last week an auditor's report scrutinised payouts at Coatbridge College.

John Moore  
Nottingham



Sucking public services dry

It found “serious failings” in the decision to pay £849,842 to the outgoing principal, five senior managers and a member of staff in the principal's office. These exceeded national

guidelines through additional payments and the report stated there is “limited evidence” justifying them.

These payoffs are at the expense of thousands of staff and students who remain.

Lecturers should not accept the argument that there is no money when we ask for decent pay. Neither should students who continue to struggle with poverty level funding.

Angela McCormick  
Glasgow

Just a thought...

## Putrid core of capitalism

THE ROYALS are rats. They have no right to Balmoral Castle or Buckingham Palace. Instead, all Crown properties must be given to homeless refugees.

The House of Windsor is at the putrid core of British capitalism. It stands for church, war, flag and inequality. It is the enemy of the poor.

Those spoilt blue-blooded vermin are the opposite of revolution.

Zekria Ibrahim  
West London

## Stand up to the EU bullies

STAND YOUR ground people of Greece. Don't let the bastards grind you down.

William Vallance  
on Facebook

## Greece is not unique attack

THE IMF—screwing little countries over since 1945.

Sara Beddoes  
on Facebook

## Hypocrisy of the right wing

I WAS sad to see the passing of Nicholas Winton, “Britain's Schindler”, as some in the press dubbed him.

He helped organise transport for Jews fleeing the Nazi death camps—over 650 children were saved.

But it makes me sick to see the bloody hypocrites on the right celebrating Winton's acts. They currently support the persecution of refugees in detention in Britain and beyond.

And what's even more sickening to see is newspapers like the Daily Mail writing about him when its proprietors were Nazi sympathisers.

Jim Craigton  
Lincoln

## Reasons to demonstrate

MANY THANKS to people who have watched #wellredfilms “They Cut We Bleed”.

It's a film about the People's Assembly demo, including an interview with the Artist Taxi Driver.

You can watch it here [vimeo.com/131314258](https://vimeo.com/131314258)  
Brian Smith  
on Facebook



**I**T'S THE most scary way to die, by a tank shell," Palestinian journalist Mohammed Omer told Socialist Worker. "They just bomb and bomb and bomb."

At least with an Israeli F16 missile, you know that someone is watching you. And he knows he is going to kill somebody. So it's deliberate.

"But tank shells, they just go anywhere. You don't know what they're going to hit."

Mohammed was describing what it was like to live through Israel's six-week long assault on the Gaza Strip, which began a year ago this month.

His new book, *Shell-shocked: On The Ground Under Israel's Gaza Assault*, is a series of dispatches written during those six weeks in which Israel killed 2,251 Palestinians.

Mohammed's book tries to tell the human stories behind the figures.

"The book is based on people that I met, events I have survived and attacks I have seen with my own eyes," he explained.

"The international media has dealt with people killed in the Gaza Strip as numbers. But who are the Palestinians?"

"There are the mothers, there are the children, there are the fathers. There is the little girl who got stuck, and her body needs to be dug out of the ruins of her destroyed home. And her brother is alive underneath the rubble—but they can't get him out under the heavy bombardment of tank shells."

The book follows the release of a United Nations (UN) report detailing Israel's actions during the assault.

The UN said it had gathered "substantial information pointing to the possible commission of war crimes by both Israel and Palestinian armed groups".

Any equating of Israel's crimes with the actions of Palestinians resisting them will rightly anger many people. But Israel's tactic of deliberately targeting residential areas is central to the UN report.

### Families

It pointed out, "Many of the incidents took place in the evening or at dawn, when families gathered for iftar and suhkur, the Ramadan meals, or at night, when people were asleep."

"The timing of the attacks increased the likelihood that many people, often entire families, would be at home."

Like every Palestinian living in the Gaza Strip, Mohammed has experience of Israel's attacks on people's homes.

"I remember I was talking to Mr Jundia—who I talk about in the introduction of the book — and then suddenly this F16 missile hit a house nearby," he said.

"We were just taken by the pressure of the airstrike. This was a civilian home. There is no misunderstanding here."

The Shujai'ya neighbourhood in the east of the city was among those that suffered the most.

At least 100 Palestinians were killed and more than 300 injured in just one day of heavy bombardment.

Mohammed's book relates the scale of the carnage in vivid detail.

One resident, Omar, witnessed a family of 12 trying to flee the bombs being "blown to pieces,

### READ THE BOOK

**Shell-shocked: On The Ground Under Israel's Gaza Assault** by Mohammed Omer is published by OR Books on 8 July.

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



splattered all over the walls and concrete".

"Then he saw a small child's face—the top of a child's head," Mohammed wrote.

"The rest was split into pieces. His mother's body was blown into small pieces."

The main purpose of Israel's assault was to crush the Palestinian resistance group Hamas along with other groups like it—something it failed to do.

But for Mohammed, the attack was also about collectively punishing ordinary Palestinians.

Israel's bombing of Gaza's cemeteries the night before the first day of Eid showed this up.

This is a day when Muslims in Palestine traditionally visit graveyards to pay their respects to the dead.

Israel also targeted hospitals and UN schools sheltering Palestinians who had fled their homes.

**M**OHAMMED reported from Al-Aqsa hospital in central Gaza. "Dr Khalil Khattab, a surgeon, was operating on a patient when the first shell struck," he wrote.

"He ran to the floors below to discover at least four dead and dozens of colleagues—doctors, nurses, orderlies and administrators—injured."

"The medical staff had become patients."

And he described one scene from Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where three UN schools were acting as shelters before Israel shelled them.

"The peaceful light-blue walls of UN schools are still splattered with blood. The children who once studied here have suddenly been forced to see another face of their school."

"The black-and-white floor is covered with pools of blood. A blood-soaked blanket and a pair of lonely sandals are scattered nearby."

"The blood belongs to the people who were fasting here, waiting to break their fast three hours later."

But Mohammed is also keen to show the spirit of resistance among Palestinians.

In one dispatch he told how displaced Gaza residents, sheltering in a school, resolve to bake a traditional Eid cake despite the bombardment.

"The Israelis should know they will not stop us from finding some joy in making Eid cake," one of the refugees told Mohammed.

She added that the cake represents "resilience and resistance".

Mohammed also reported how support for resistance groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad grew during the

# THE BRUTAL ISRAEL'S WAR

# AFTER SHOCK



Mohammed Omer

A year after Israeli bombs and troops killed journalist Mohammed Omer talks to Socialist Worker as well as the continuing oppression and



# THE TRUTH OF WAR ON GAZA BOYCOTT

killed thousands in Gaza, Palestinian Nick Clark about what he saw there—and the resistance of ordinary people

assault.

He told Socialist Worker the reason for this was simple.

“The mentality of people here is that we are dying anyway,” he said.

“It’s better to die with some form of resistance than die when you are totally naked, without any support.”

Mohammed interviewed a number of Palestinians during the assault.

Ibtisam, who Mohammed identifies as a housewife, said, “We have only Allah, then Hamas. I have always respected them for the work they do.

“They have helped through charity—helping many women and orphan children when the rest of the world turned their backs on them.”

Even many of those who disagreed with Hamas politically supported their physical resistance to the Israelis.

Othman, a taxi driver, said, “I never liked Hamas, because I disagree with their approach to ending conflict, but I am afraid we could not achieve our rights through other methods.

“Now, Hamas sacrifices their lives and are owed our respect for trying the new approach—which is armed struggle—to end Israel’s siege and open the borders to freedom.”

A year on, Palestinians are still suffering the aftermath of the war.

Some have tried to flee the Gaza Strip via tunnels, before joining the thousands of other migrants and refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean.

**THOSE WHO remain are stuck in a destroyed city. The UN estimated that more than 100,000 Palestinian homes were damaged or destroyed over the course of the bombing—leaving 108,000 people homeless.**

But the reconstruction process—that forces Palestinians to apply to Israel for building materials—has barely begun.

“Not one single home has been rebuilt in Gaza,” Mohammed told Socialist Worker.

“When you have a destroyed

**FLARES LIT up blacked-out Gaza City as the ground invasion began (main), the devastation after an air raid (far left), Israeli tanks (above)**

home there is a committee. Israel looks and says, you need five bags or six bags of cement, two kilos of steel and 15 or 20 kilos of gravel, something like that.

“And they give it to you and you end up saying, this is not enough. Also, they haven’t taken into consideration the cost of labour.

“It costs maybe one or two thousand shekels for a worker to come. They don’t have that.

“So people took the cement, sold it in the local market for a much higher price, and they survive.

“It used to be 25 shekels per cement bag. Now it’s close to 120—before it was 200. So the easiest thing to do is to sell it, then get some plastic or rent a home and live like that.”

The suffering is compounded by the fact that the onslaught badly damaged much of Gaza’s basic infrastructure.

The destroyed sewage system meant that Gaza was hit by severe flooding after torrential storms in the winter.

And the Strip still has power cuts—Gaza’s only power plant was also deliberately bombed last year.

But Israel’s assault also meant that, just as support for the resistance grew inside Gaza, so did support for the Palestinians internationally.

## Horror

Millions around the world watched in horror and disgust as Israel’s slaughter of the Palestinians continued last summer. Hundreds of thousands of people protested in towns and cities in different countries across the world.

In August, more than 150,000 people took to the streets for the biggest march in solidarity with Palestine Britain has ever seen.

It was part of an international Day of Rage that also saw up to 200,000 march through Cape Town in South Africa.

And the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which calls for a boycott of Israeli goods and services, has grown in strength.

This has been so effective that Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu denounced the National Union of Students in Britain when it backed BDS last month.

Mohammed welcomes this. “Mobilisation, advocacy and working for justice in Palestine is getting more and more organised,” he told Socialist Worker.

“Now we see the more Israel is imposing aggression on Palestinians, the more solidarity movements like BDS are getting powerful around the world.”

Mohammed hopes his book can boost the growing number of people who want to take action against Israel.

“I’m really hoping that the book will be educational,” he said.

“I’ve always liked the idea of a book being talked about at the dinner table—to be brought into the discussion to talk about Gaza.

“So that’s what I try to do with my book. To try to help people understand what’s going on. To bring a voice for those who have no voice.”

Many thousands of people protested all over the world against the attacks

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

#### BARNSELEY

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Thu 16 Jul, 6.30pm,  
YMCA, Blucher St,  
S70 1AP

#### BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

**From coal mines to call centres—how has the working class changed?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Birmingham LGBT Centre,  
38/40 Holloway Circus,  
B1 1EQ

#### BOLTON

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Wed 22 Jul, 6.30pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St (off  
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

#### BRADFORD

**Can there be a revolution in Britain?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Equity Centre, Perkin House,  
82 Grattan Rd,  
BD1 2LU

#### BRIGHTON

**Fighting the selloff of education**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St, BN1 1AF

#### BRISTOL: NORTH

**Can Labour be won for the left?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Canteen, 5th Floor,  
Hamilton House,  
80 Stokes Croft,  
BS1 3QY

#### BRISTOL: SOUTH

**Pride, politics and protest—a revolutionary guide to LGBT liberation**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
YHA,  
14 Narrow Quay,  
BS1 4QA

#### CARDIFF

**Why Marxism is still relevant**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

#### CHELMSFORD

**Pride, politics and protest—a revolutionary guide to LGBT liberation**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd,  
CM1 2QL

#### CHESTERFIELD

**Why Marxism is relevant today**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Chesterfield Library  
(enter via Cafe Browser),  
New Beetwell St,  
S40 1QL

#### COLCHESTER

**The future of the NHS**

Tue 14 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Odd One Out,  
28 Mersea Rd,  
CO2 7ET

#### COVENTRY

**Is the working class the only force that can overthrow capitalism?**

Wed 15 July, 7.30pm  
West Indian Centre,  
159 Spon St,  
CV1 3BB

#### DONCASTER

**Israel the hijack state—the US's watchdog in the Middle East**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Women's Centre,  
21 Cleveland St,  
DN1 3EH

#### DUDLEY

**Isis and counter-revolution—a Marxist analysis**

Wed 15 Jul, 8pm,  
The What Centre,  
23 Coventry St,  
Stourbridge,  
DY8 1EP

#### IPSWICH

**State and revolution**

Thu 6 Aug, 7pm,  
Labour Club,  
33-35 Silent St,  
IP1 1TF

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

# Greece—the battle against the bankers

**ABERDEEN**  
Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

**CAMBRIDGE**  
Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Shanghai Family Restaurant,  
39 Burleigh St, CB1 1DG

**DERBY**  
Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
West End Community Centre  
(next to Britannia Mill),  
Mackworth Rd,  
DE22 3BL

**EXETER**  
Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
New Horizon Cafe,  
47 Longbrook St, EX4 6AW

**HARLOW**  
Thu 23 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

**KIRKCALDY**  
Mon 3 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Betty Nicol's Pub,  
297 High St, KY1 1JL

**LONDON: KINGSTON**  
Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Kingston Quaker Centre,  
Fairfield East, KT1 2PT

**LONDON: LEWISHAM**  
Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
West Greenwich Community  
and Arts Centre,  
141 Greenwich High Rd  
(near Greenwich main line  
and DLR Station), SE10 8JA

**LONDON: NEWHAM**  
Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next  
to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP

**LONDON: SOUTHWARK**  
Thu 16 July, 7pm,  
The Grand Union, Snug Room,  
26 Camberwell Grove  
(off Camberwell Church St),  
SE5 8RE

**LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST**  
Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
1a Jewel Rd  
(off Hoe St),  
E17 4QU

**PLYMOUTH**  
Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
Quaker House,  
74 Mutley Plain,  
PL4 6LF

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
High Street Cafe,  
153 High St,  
SO14 2BT

**WIGAN**  
Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Little Fifteen Pub,  
17-19 Wallgate  
(opposite Wigan Post Office),  
WN1 1LD

#### DUNDEE

**The revolutionary paper—why we sell Socialist Worker**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd,  
DD1 1LL

#### EDINBURGH

**A carnival of reaction—a Marxist analysis of the Orange Order**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria Terrace,  
EH1 2JL

#### GLASGOW: NORTH

**Immigration—the myths used to divide us**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Posh Nosh Cafe,  
86 Maryhill Rd  
(near Georges Cross  
Underground),  
G20 7QB

#### GLASGOW: SOUTH

**Socialism in the 21st century**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Govanhill Baths,  
99 Calder St, G42 7RA

#### HUDDERSFIELD

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Wed 15 Jul, 6.30pm,  
Brian Jackson House,  
2 New North Parade  
(near train and bus  
stations), HD1 5JP

#### IPSWICH

**State and revolution**

Thu 6 Aug, 7pm,  
Labour Club,  
33-35 Silent St,  
IP1 1TF

#### LANCASTER

**What do we mean by revolution?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

#### LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

**The housing crisis—where are we going to live?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Square,  
LS3 1AD

#### LEICESTER

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Leicester Adult  
Education College,  
2 Wellington St (Belvoir  
St entrance),  
LE1 6HL

#### LONDON: BRENT & HARROW

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Pepperpot Centre,  
1a Thorpe Close,  
Ladbroke Grove (very  
close to the station),  
W10 5XL

#### LONDON: BRIXTON

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd  
(near Effra Rd, facing  
Windrush Square),  
SW2 1EP

#### LONDON: CAMDEN

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
Theatro Technis,  
26 Crownndale Rd,  
NW1 1TT

#### LONDON: EALING

**The real cost of pornography**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
W3 Gallery, 185 Acton  
High St, W3 9DJ

#### LONDON: HACKNEY

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

#### LONDON: HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN

**A rebel's guide to Leon Trotsky**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
West Indian Cultural Centre,  
9 Clarendon Rd,  
Haringey, N8 0DD

#### LONDON: ISLINGTON

**75 years since the assassination of Leon Trotsky**

Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
The Old Fire Station,  
84 Mayton St,  
N7 6QT

#### LONDON: TOTTENHAM

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Kitabevi Cafe,  
410 Tottenham High Rd,  
N17 9JB

#### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Oxford House,  
Derbyshire St (opp Bethnal  
Green Rd Tesco),  
E2 6HG

#### MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Chorlton Library (side door),  
Manchester Rd,  
M21 9PN

#### MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

**Why socialists defend the Human Rights Act from Tory attacks**

Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

#### MEDWAY

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Nucleus Arts Centre,  
Conference Room,  
272 High St, Chatham,  
ME4 4BP

#### NEWCASTLE

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7pm,  
Broadacre House,  
Market St, NE1 6HQ

#### NORWICH

**Capitalism in crisis—was Karl Marx right?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

#### NOTTINGHAM

**Who benefits from austerity?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
International  
Community Centre,  
61b Mansfield Rd,  
NG1 3FN

#### OXFORD

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Wed 15 July, 7.30pm,  
Restore, Manzil Way  
(off Cowley Rd),  
OX4 1YH

#### PORTSMOUTH

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown Central,  
Rivers St, PO5 4EY

#### ROTHERHAM

**Can we have a revolution in Britain?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7pm,  
Talbot Lane Methodist  
Church Centre, Moorgate St,  
S60 2EY

#### ST ALBANS

**In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Wed 22 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Trinity Church Hall (upstairs),  
1 Beaconsfield Rd  
(near St Albans City  
station), AL1 3RD

#### SCARBOROUGH

**What is socialism and how can we achieve it?**

Thu 23 Jul, 7pm,  
Scarborough Central Library,  
Small Meeting Room,  
Vernon Rd,  
YO11 2NN

#### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**Why the system can't provide decent homes for all**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St  
(near Crucible  
Theatre), S1 2JB

#### SWANSEA

**Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Thu 16 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd,  
SA2 0BP

#### WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

**Europe in crisis—what do socialists say?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
The Irish Mbaasy,  
25-27 Lichfield St,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1EQ

#### YORK

**The housing crisis—where are we all going to live?**

Wed 15 Jul, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

### { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

#### DORCHESTER

**Greece—the end of the line for the EU?**

Sat 1 Aug, 1.30pm,  
Colliton Club (opposite  
County Hall),  
Colliton Park, DT1 1XJ  
Organised by Dorset Socialists

#### NATIONAL

**Demonstrate at the Tory party conference**

Sun 4 Oct,  
central Manchester  
Called by the TUC

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Phone 020 7819 1172  
Email  
[enquires@swp.org.uk](mailto:enquires@swp.org.uk)  
Post PO Box 42184,  
London SW8 2WD



# Learning the lessons about how to give bosses a kicking

John Newsinger's *Them and Us* reclaims a great period of working class struggle for a new generation of activists, writes **Tim Knight-Hughes**

**WE LIVE with zero hour contracts, creeping casualisation and a brutal austerity drive.**

A whole generation of activists has grown up used to low levels of working class struggle.

But as author John Newsinger puts it, "our side has taken" these attacks so far. We have beaten back some bosses' attacks and there's no shortage of disputes. But they're on a small and localised scale.

Yet Newsinger's book isn't pessimistic. *Them and Us* gives a rich history of one of the highest periods of working class struggle.

Its aim is to reclaim that history for new working class activists who are organising in their workplaces.

The key lesson is that working class people do have the power to fight back and shut society down.

Many of our side's major gains that are now under attack, such as trade union rights, were won because of those struggles.

They weren't won through parliament, "social partnerships" or making concessions—but through militant action and solidarity.

## Unrest

Newsinger begins by looking at the Great Unrest before the First World War, which saw 41 million strike days at its height in 1912.

Workers who had never been organised, such as the women chain makers, fought back.

But these struggles reached their crescendo in 1913-14 with the dockers' strike and Dublin Lockout.

They were sold out by the movement's leaders.

Newsinger's most important contribution is showing how the Labour Party and union officials have been able to halt workers' militancy.

They backed the First World War in 1918 and got sucked into running the war effort. But this also opened up the possibility of a new revolt from below. It brought Britain to the brink of revolution in 1919, but again the officials held it back.

The book shows we need to be organised and build working class solidarity—so we're strong enough to take action ourselves and win.

Newsinger begins by writing that "We live in a period of unprecedented class warfare."

That's true. But this book will also help us start giving it to them, instead of just taking it.

***Them and Us: Fighting the class war 1910-1939***

By John Newsinger

Available from Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop, priced £7.99

## Drama



GEORGE MACKAY as Lewis Aldridge

## Exposing myths of middle class idylls

### TELEVISION

#### THE OUTCAST

BBC ONE

Written by Sadie Jones

Sundays, 9pm

BBC ONE'S new drama *The Outcast* is set in a small village in the 1950s.

It is a place where people spend all their time repressing their emotions so they can maintain a forced politeness.

The drama is based on Sadie Jones's best selling novel with the same name.

In the first 15 minutes you could be forgiven for thinking it's

all quite idyllic.

But that all changes when ten year old Lewis Aldridge sees his mum drown.

His emotionally distant father Gilbert, who is incapable of supporting him, sends him to boarding school and gets engaged within months.

Gilbert neglects Lewis's mental and emotional wellbeing throughout in order to maintain a veneer of respectability.

Lewis is left to try and cope on his own.

He engages in a pattern of ever more self-destructive behaviour, which increasingly upsets the sensibilities of

the villagers.

The only person who sticks up for Lewis is Kit, Gilbert's boss's daughter.

Her rich father is seen as a pillar of the community, despite the fact that in private he beats up her and her mum.

The start of *The Outcast* is a bit slow and at points it's unclear if the plot is going anywhere.

But it does show up the facade of 1950s middle class respectability.

It's worth watching—just not if you want a light-hearted way to cheer yourself up.

**Bethan Turner**

## FILM

### EAST END FILM FESTIVAL

Until 12 July

London

[eastendfilmfestival.com](http://eastendfilmfestival.com)

THE EAST End Film Festival features international premiers, independent film releases, music and art.

This year's films include *Athens Now*, a series of radical films looking at Greece since the crisis and austerity.

Meanwhile, at the Red Gallery, you can check out live music. In the evenings there are DJ sets and parties.

The festival takes place across different locations in east London.

## EVENT

### MARX WALK

Monday 13 July, 4pm.

Meeting point: Back entrance, Institute of Education, London WC1H 0AL.

£7 or £5 concession

[www.marxwalks.com](http://www.marxwalks.com)

KARL MARX'S work inspired protests, strikes, rebellions



A plaque for Karl Marx

and revolutions.

The walk takes you round the places in Soho where Marx lived and worked, and looks at the influence of his revolutionary ideas.

## TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- Celebrating C.L.R. James in Hackney**  
Edited by Christian Hogsbjerg and Gaverne Bennett
- Rebel's Guide to Eleanor Marx**  
Siobhan Brown
- Rebel Footprints**  
David Rosenberg
- Blacklisted**  
Phil Chamberlain and Dave Smith
- This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate**  
Naomi Klein

Phone 020 7637 1848  
[bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)  
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE





**T**HE attempts of Europe's rulers to crush the Greek government has exposed the limits of democracy.

No one elected those who run the "institutions"—the European Union (EU), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Central Bank.

Yet they are intent on forcing austerity upon ordinary people in Greece.

In capitalist societies real power doesn't lie in parliaments but with the obscenely wealthy and unelected ruling class.

But the crisis in Greece has also pointed to the power that workers can wield—and that they have the potential to end class society for good.

Workers have immense power to challenge the bosses and their states because of the way capitalism works.

The capitalists are dependent on workers to make their profits.

Workers sell their ability to work but bosses pay them only a small proportion of the wealth they create.

This is what the revolutionary and writer Karl Marx meant by the term "exploitation".

This puts workers in a social position that gives them a unique power to turn the tap off on bosses' profits.

Socialists encourage all kinds of resistance to capitalism and the attacks it brings on working class people.

Protests, demonstrations and direct action are an important part of resistance and give others confidence to fight.

But organised workers taking action can have a bigger impact because they hit profits.

All four unions were set to strike on London Underground this week. This would give a glimpse of this power.

And we saw it in November 2011, when workers across some 29 unions shut down services across Britain when they struck to defend pensions.

Capitalism has changed enormously since Marx was writing.

Competition between bosses means there is a drive to constantly find new, more profitable ways to produce things in order to undercut rivals.

These changes mean the working class looks different too. The last two deep coal mines in Britain are currently being shut down.

More people today work in banking and service sector jobs than did in the past.

Yet these workers are still crucial to enabling bosses to make their profits. And workers' action can help create a political crisis for the government and their rich friends.

Think of NHS workers for example. When they struck last autumn it acted as a focus for political anger over the Tories' privatisation of the NHS.

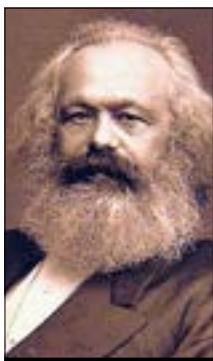
Not every worker can shut



PROTESTERS CONFRONT police in Cairo's Tahrir Square during the Egyptian Revolution in 2011

# WHO HAS POWER IN SOCIETY?

As the global ruling class continues its clampdown on Greece, Tomáš Tengely-Evans asks where real power lies—and argues that workers can change the world



Karl Marx

down London's transport network or grind a section of manufacturing to a halt.

But workers' action in every part of the economy can have a big impact.

Workers can win real reforms and beat back attacks on them. But they can also mount a fundamental challenge to the system.

The recent Egyptian Revolution showed this potential. Mobilisations in Cairo's Tahrir Square in early 2011



**Organised workers taking action can have a big impact as it hits profits**

were central to the revolution.

But it was strikes by organised groups of workers in the textile mills and the Suez Canal that tipped the balance and forced hated dictator Hosni Mubarak out.

Big struggles such as this encourage workers to raise wider questions about how society is run and challenge long-held assumptions.

By starting to organise things for themselves workers can realise that they have the power to

run society without the bosses.

This is partly why socialists push for rank and file workers to take charge during strikes instead of simply relying on trade union officials.

When bosses in Greece shut down the ERT state broadcaster in June 2013, workers occupied it and ran it themselves.

As one ERT worker put it some five months later, "ERT is now a tool to support the struggles, broadcasting every strike and demonstration."

"The government hasn't dared send in riot police because of the solidarity expressed by the working class."

**S**TRUGGLE can transform workers' ideas—but that doesn't mean they abandon all the old ideas.

People can still look to trying to reform the system, or hope that oppositional figures from the old order can become new leaders.

The Russian Revolution in 1917 overthrew the hated Tsar and brought in a provisional government.

Many workers initially looked to this government, made up mainly of industrialists, to bring change.

But change was slow and workers began to set up their own organisations, called Soviets. Their ideas changed as they saw they could run things for themselves.

Revolutionary socialists need to be organised to push the struggle in a revolutionary direction.

In Russia the Bolshevik party played a key role in making sure workers successfully took power and formed a workers' state.

They understood that taking over the existing capitalist state apparatus is not an option.

We are told that the state is neutral. In reality it is a capitalist state that looks after the bosses' interests.

Marx described it as "nothing but the executive for managing the affairs of the whole bourgeoisie".

We can see how this works today. Bosses lobby politicians to push through policies that benefit business.

This can be privatising the NHS, scrapping regulations on private landlords or making more cuts to corporation tax.

While politicians make important decisions, real power is in the hands of the banks and big corporations that dominate the economy.

They decide what is produced, where investment goes and how resources are allocated.

This is the naked reality of ruling class rule.

But this isn't just a question of corporations "controlling" elected governments.

The majority of politicians and the people who make up the state bureaucracy come from the same background as



those in the boardrooms of top companies.

There's a revolving door between top politicians and civil servants, and top bankers and chief executives.

Yet simply getting a more left wing government into office doesn't solve the problem.

Our rulers' wealth and power is left intact whenever a government is elected into office. And if governments try to make even the smallest reforms, bosses resort to blackmail.

They threaten to take their money out of the country if bonuses are capped or regulations are brought in.

They warn that jobs will be cut or workplaces shut down if governments talk of raising the minimum wage.

So left wing governments still end up managing the capitalist system and holding the reins of the bosses' state.

The real problem isn't with individuals—it is with the structures of capitalism.

The institutions of the state have developed to support the bosses.

For all the talk of capitalism being a "free market", big business has always had an important relationship with the state.

The state helps protect capitalist operations and support the infrastructure that allowed the system to expand—health services, education, transport systems and so on.

Today states or coalitions of states fight each other for the interests of "their" capitalists.

They battle to win contracts, better tax breaks or deregulation that can keep wages low.

Some hope that there could be a nicer version of capitalism where workers are treated better.

But exploitation and competition are part and parcel of the system. They can't be reformed away.

Firms are forced to maximise profit or face going out of business.

Marx argued that this meant our rulers' only goal was "accumulation for accumulation's sake".

Bosses use their economic power to keep this system in place and to try and crush any challenge to it—whether from governments or strikes.

And the bosses' state will use its instruments of repression—the police, security services and army—to try and hold down revolts.



**MEMBERS OF the Red Army in Moscow in 1917 (top). Opposing austerity in Greece (above) and Britain (below)**

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



Our rulers hope we will conclude that the bosses are all powerful and nothing can change.

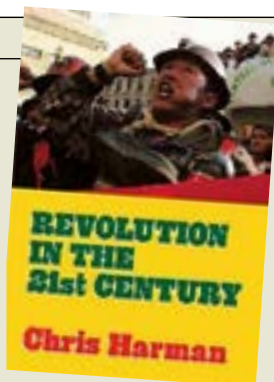
They want us to think that we could never run things and that socialism would be a disaster.

In reality they are the ones presiding over a system that wrecks the environment and creates poverty, war and racism.

The constant pressure on bosses to attack workers means that struggle breaks out time after time.

Revolutions will erupt in the future. The real question is whether they will win.

Workers have the potential power to overthrow the bosses—but getting rid of them for good means being organised.



## READ MORE

● **Revolution in the 21st Century**  
by Chris Harman, £8.42

● **State and Revolution**  
by Vladimir Lenin, £6.95  
[bit.ly/1GobyT](http://bit.ly/1GobyT)

● **Ten Days That Shook the World**  
by John Reed, £9.99  
[bit.ly/1NCpzyK](http://bit.ly/1NCpzyK)

● **Arguments for revolution—the case for the Socialist Workers Party**  
by Joseph Choonara and Charlie Kimber, £3

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop.  
Phone 020 7637 1848  
or go to [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



# Resisting the slaughter of war across the world

**Donny Gluckstein** writes on the new book he has edited on those who fought both against imperialism and fascism during the Second World War

POLITICIANS USE the Second World War to justify imperialist interventions.

For David Cameron, the British and Allied governments fought a "battle against tyranny", "just as our armed forces have served together in Afghanistan."

It's the only war that they can plausibly use in this way, because most people see it as an anti-fascist, not imperialist, war.

But it was an imperialist conflict between two power blocs. The Western Allies controlled half the globe and the Axis—Germany, Italy and Japan—wanted to replace their dominance.

As their troops overran countries often the old ruling classes fled or capitulated. The struggle against fascist occupation led to a "people's war from below".

My first book on the period, *A People's History of the Second World War*, looked at when imperialist and people's wars clashed.

## Argument

Now, *Fighting on All Fronts* brings together ten writers to take up the story of popular resistance. The chapters range from Algeria to Slovakia and Australia to the Philippines.

In Europe resistance developed and in Asia liberation movements stepped up their fight.

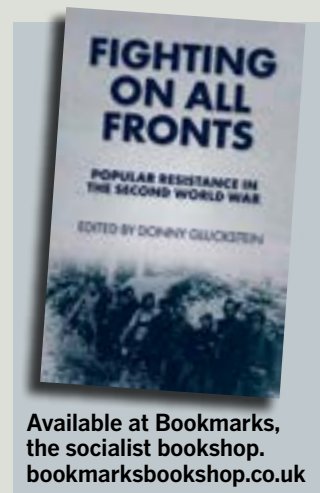
These parallel wars clashed as the imperialists tried to assert their dominance when the tide turned against the fascists.

It blows apart the myth that the US only became a nasty imperialist power after the Second World War.

For example, Algeria in North Africa was a colony ruled by the French "Vichy" regime, which was collaborating with the Nazis.

Many Algerians had high hopes for independence. The

## PROTEST IN Algeria in 1945



Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop.  
[bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)

US and Britain said they would "respect the rights of all peoples to choose their form of government" and "wish to see self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of it."

But the war didn't end in liberation—it ended in a brutal massacre of Algerians by French troops. Why did this happen?

The US invaded Algeria in 1942. Algerian resistance organisations fighting for national liberation helped

the Allies by neutralising the colonial administration.

But, following a relatively bloodless conquest, the US restored the Vichy colonial administration and let it crack down on the resistance.

## Liberated

The US wanted a liberated France to be placed under a planned "Allied Military Government for the Occupied Territories". It didn't want to hand it to General Charles de Gaulle's Free French Army, let alone the Communist-led resistance movement.

The aim was to permanently anchor US power in Europe and stop the rise of left wing movements or governments.

This directly clashed with de Gaulle's aims. So the US established relations with the Vichy regime, hoping it would switch sides so they could ditch de Gaulle.

These battles weren't about fighting fascism but who would be in control of France.

Algerians demonstrated for independence, putting the official rhetoric of a "battle against tyranny" to the test. The French police moved in to crush their aspirations.

My book undercuts the idea that peace time processes stop when there's a war—in fact they're intensified.

The competition between capitalists is turned into bloody imperialist war. And the rulers' struggle with the classes they exploit also continues.

*Fighting On All Fronts* edited by Donny Gluckstein is published by Bookmarks, £13.99

“**These battles weren't about fighting fascism but who would be in control**”



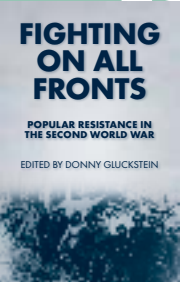
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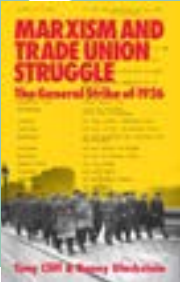
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'This book charts the forgotten history of resistance to war from every corner of the world. It is a challenge to our rulers' glib celebrations and a reminder of how war often precedes revolt'  
**£13.99**



'Today, when the working class is under sustained attack from the Tories, John Newsinger's new book on the class war is a timely history of resistance'  
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# Tories' sinister clampdown will not stop terror attacks

Politicians and newspapers are whipping up Islamophobia—and continuing a process that was ramped up a decade ago after the 7/7 London bombings in 2005, argues **Simon Basketter**

**LACKING A sense of irony, The Sun newspaper launched a manifesto against hate last Friday.**

It said, "Too many have quit Britain to join IS in Syria" and proposed the government's latest Prevent plans for spying on Muslims to be deepened.

The paper covered itself by saying, "The vast majority would not even dream of resorting to terror".

There is little new in this. For over a decade a theme has developed on how to push racism and Islamophobia.

More than 50 people were killed and hundreds more injured in bombings in London on 7 July 2005.

Racism against Muslims stepped up to a new level.

The day after the bombing The Sun talked of "peace-loving Muslims".

It then said, "Britain is crawling with suspected terrorists and those who give them succour. The government must act without delay, round up this enemy in our midst and lock them in internment camps."

At the same time The Daily Mail newspaper's Melanie Phillips made the obligatory reference to the "vast majority" of "decent" Muslims.

She then wrote, "The root cause of this threat is a religion whose dominant traditions...have preached or practised...holy war."

Either you can be "good Muslims" and accept Britain's foreign policy in the Middle East and beyond. Or, be the "enemy within" and subjected to endless persecution.

Lurid stories of potential bomb attacks were used to justify police raids and shootings.

This deliberately created a climate of fear and led to Muslims being abused and attacked in the streets.

The newspapers and the politicians then as now argued that 7/7—or



**THE NUMBER 30 bus in London's Tavistock Square blown apart by a bomb, 7 July 2005**

joining Isis—could not be understood as a reaction to Western foreign policy.

The British government's support for Middle Eastern dictators, torture and bombing can be discounted because terrorism is built into all but the most "moderate" versions of Islam.

Prevent was launched in 2006. It saw Muslims as being, at best, passive about, and at worst, complicit with extremism. Areas with larger Muslim

populations got automatic funding.

Several places produced reports saying that there was no evidence of extremism in their area.

So Muslims were considered targets of counter-terrorism whether or not there was evidence of extremism.

The Tories abolished demographic-based funding in 2011. Details of Prevent funding is now secret on the grounds of national security.

Ideologically there has been

development—for the worse. Vague definitions of extremism, and a view of "radicalisation" as a process that begins with bad thoughts and ends in violent acts has become the norm.

This has meant the governments's emphasis shifted from terrorism to violent extremism to non-violent extremism and then simply to values.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 enshrines this in law.

## Fight racist divide and rule tactics

**THE** tide of Islamophobia was held back to some extent by the depth of the anti-war movement.

The huge protests against the Afghanistan and Iraq wars brought together Muslims and left wing activists.

That unity was hard to wrench apart.

In the days after the 7/7 bombing there were peace vigils around the country.

Two of those reported to be responsible came from Beeston in Leeds, Yorkshire.

Some 300 people marched and held homemade banners proclaiming that they would not be divided.

Bishr told Socialist Worker at the time, "The media haven't been able to dig up the story of a divided community in the way they wanted to."

### Together

"The local Stop the War group together with the mosque and churches called a peace vigil even before we knew that the bombers were local—people knew we had to stand together."

As the march came to an end the protesters from Beeston came together with another march from another part of Leeds.

The state then took a twin track approach of trying to co-opt some leading "community leaders" while intimidating everybody else into silence.

The combination of ideological and physical repression took its toll.

But that unity is again needed against the racists' divide and rule.

## Witness intimidation, altered photos and state lies

**THE** ideological attacks were linked with very real physical ones.

On 22 July 2005 Jean Charles de Menezes sat down on a tube train in Stockwell, south London.

One police officer held him down while two others fired seven hollow tip bullets into his head and one into his neck. Three other bullets missed.

The police in general—and Metropolitan Police chief Ian Blair in particular—claimed that Jean Charles had been involved in a terror plot.

They knew it was a lie.

The killing took place the day after a failed bombing attempt in London and two weeks after the 7/7 bombings.

Evidence was tampered with or removed.

Photographs were altered to make Jean Charles look more like the suspected suicide bomber. Witnesses were intimidated.

The Metropolitan Police was eventually fined £175,000 after a health and safety trial convicted it of "endangering the public" and having failed "to provide for



**Family and justice campaigners at memorial for Jean Charles in 2010**

the health, safety and welfare of Jean Charles de Menezes"—a disgusting understatement.

The smears were endless. The Sun newspaper said that Jean Charles had raped a woman. His body was exhumed and his DNA showed that he had not.

Newspapers claimed that he was wearing a bulky jacket, apparently leading police to think he was concealing a bomb.

It was a lie—and just one of dozens.

Read more online about Jean Charles [bit.ly/1f8DXUb](http://bit.ly/1f8DXUb)

PICTURE: GUY SHALLMAN



## IN BRIEF

**Housing workers won't reengage**

GMB UNION members at Aspire Housing in Staffordshire are balloting to strike over bosses' plans to impose worse terms and conditions.

Bosses want to sack maintenance workers and "reengage" them on worse contracts, with some set to lose up to £5,000 a year.

The Ucat union is also balloting its members.

**GMB workers want wage insulation**

GMB UNION members working for insulation manufacturer Saint Gobain Isover in Runcorn, Cheshire, are balloting to strike.

The ballot comes after months-long pay negotiations broke down, with bosses only making a 2 percent offer.

**Don't transmit BBC cuts to workers**

UNIONS AT the BBC have responded to bosses' announcement last week that they would cut more than 1,000 jobs.

The NUJ and Bectu unions said they welcomed moves to cut back management.

Bectu said it is opposed to compulsory redundancies. The NUJ said it wants to make sure no editorial departments are "compromised".

**Deal accepted at Royal Opera House**

WORKERS AT the Royal Opera House in the Bectu union have accepted a pay rise of 4 percent over two years.

**No to charges at York Art Gallery**

OVER 50 people protested in York on Wednesday of last week against new entrance charges for York Art Gallery. A National Gallery striker addressed the rally. Over £360 was collected for the strike fund during the day.

**Julie Forgan**

**Israeli owned arms factories targeted**

PROTESTERS OCCUPIED the roofs of three Israeli-owned arms factories on Monday of last week and blocked roads outside, forcing them to close.

Factories owned by Elbit were targeted in Shenstone and Tamworth in Staffordshire and Broadstairs in Kent.

**London hotel staff get organised**

ACTIVISTS WHO are out to unionise the largely migrant staff in London's hotels held a rally on Tuesday of last week.

Workers from the Park Plaza County Hall Hotel spoke of how they pushed back an attempt to increase the number of rooms they had to clean each day.

## EDUCATION

BRADFORD College UCU members struck on Tuesday of last week against compulsory redundancies. Picket lines began at 7am and at their peak there were 70 people.

The strikers were determined to fight for their jobs and against the destruction of FE provision at Bradford College.

Pickets marched to the town hall (pictured) for a rally.

They then made their way to a regional rally in Leeds with members of the Unite and Unison unions.

Another strike was planned for Thursday of this week.

**Umit Yildiz**



PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

## LEGAL AID

# Solicitors work to rule against Gove's cuts

by **CLAIRE DISSINGTON**

CRIMINAL defence solicitors across the country began to refuse to do legal aid work at the start of the month.

Huge meetings in Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham, Devon, Wales, Bristol and London voted to support this action.

Magistrates' courts and police stations are grinding to a halt. Courts are sitting until night to get through the cases.

Instead of locking people up overnight, police are bailing people out.

**Simply**

We are simply doing what we are paid to do and no more. The action amounts to a work to rule by a profession which is not unionised.

The Tories appointed Michael Gove as justice secretary after his disastrous impact on our schools as education minister.

The coalition government had continued the attacks on

the right to legal aid which were started by the previous Labour government.

Solicitors and barristers have already taken action. This led to a small concession when the government decided not to impose the next round of cuts until the new contracts in October this year.

Gove's first move was to bring the next cuts in straightaway on 1 July. That is why solicitors are taking action.

Like any worker whose job involves the vulnerable this is not something that has been undertaken lightly.

We know people who depend on us are in police stations and courts on their own. But if we don't do something now that will happen anyway.

We defend people accused of crime. The Tories automatically see them as criminals and therefore undeserving.

But it could be any one of us facing the might of the state with its courts, prosecutors,

judges and police.

Legal aid work isn't about fat cat lawyers. Newly qualified defence solicitors earn a pittance compared to those who prosecute.

If you choose to be a prosecutor your starting salary would be at least £15,000 more and includes a pension. And no night work.

**Needy**

Our work involves going to the police stations at all times of the day and night and going to court, providing a proper defence for the most needy in society.

A firm of solicitors is paid roughly £200 for attending the police station and less than £300 for going to court. That is for the whole case which can take months of work and many court hearings. Some of the best lawyers are being forced to leave the profession.

Now barristers are balloting to join in the action. That will effectively halt the Crown Courts as well. Teachers got rid of Gove—lawyers can too.

## NEWHAM

## 'Significant gains' by action

THE NUT union has made significant gains in a dispute involving two schools in Newham, east London.

Teachers at Rokeby and Sarah Bonnell schools had struck over a change of employer linked to plans to turn the schools into academies.

Bosses asked to meet the union, and both union groups voted for

further action if talks were not successful.

The gains the union has made concern protecting terms and conditions under the trust and ensuring that future changes are negotiated with the union.

They have protected terms and conditions much better than would have been achieved without strikes.

**A Newham NUT member**

## GEORGE MONOUX

The NUT union has suspended strikes at Sir George Monoux College in Walthamstow, east London.

Teachers had planned to walk out every week until the end of the summer term in defence of two sacked

workers, Flor Thompson and Diana George.

The union suspended the action after bosses agreed to an inquiry into the sackings.

It has also suspended a planned three-day strike during August.

## SMALL HEATH



On strike against academisation

PICTURE: SIMON O'HARA

## Parents support teachers

NUT, NASUWT and ATL union members held a vibrant, solid strike at Small Heath School in Birmingham on Thursday of last week.

This follows a strike a month ago against the threat of academisation at the school.

Students and parents came to the picket line—

and some brought food.

Staff members had felt a boost the evening before when many attended a parents' meeting. Every parent that spoke supported the striking teachers.

**Simon O'Hara**

●Union/parents' meeting  
Tue 14 July, 5-7pm, The B1a Lounge, B10 0JU

## FERRIES

## Action on ferries spreads

ARGYLL FERRIES staff were set to join CalMac workers on a 24-hour walkout on Friday of this week over threats to jobs, conditions and pensions.

CalMac, the Scottish state-owned ferry operator, operates the vast majority of Clyde and Hebrides ferry services (CHFS).

It set up Argyll Ferries to run one route about 30 miles outside Glasgow.

Workers at both firms are in the RMT union.

The dispute stems from the Scottish National Party (SNP) government tendering the CHFS contract.

The union is worried that outsourcing giant Serco will take over, as it did NorthLink Ferries in 2012.

This was followed by cuts in services and jobs.

The union wants contracts to include a commitment to no compulsory redundancies.

It wants any changes to staffing levels, conditions or pensions to be agreed with the union.

CalMac workers' strike two weeks ago had a severe impact on services and created a political row.

Labour has been quick to howl its disapproval. But the SNP is just repeating what Labour did in 2005 when it ran the Scottish executive with the Lib Dems.

Back then Fergus Ewing, a current SNP minister, said "an SNP government would not tender" CalMac services.

## OBITUARY

## Angus McKendrick 1959-2015

ANGUS McKendrick has died suddenly from a virulent bacterial infection.

He joined the Socialist Workers Party in the late 1970s in London, and remained a member for some 20 years.

He went to study at North Staffordshire Polytechnic, but had to leave for a while after being involved in a rent strike.

He finished his studies in the early 1980s. He was very active in student politics, where he was a great networker.

Local comrades remember Angus organising an



Angus McKendrick

unbelievable night of music and politics to see left wing band the Redskins in 1986.

For a few years he drove double-decker buses in north Staffordshire. Then Angus trained as a careers adviser, working for the local authority

and then at the universities of Keele and Oxford.

He had lived in Bath with his partner Sian and daughters Lois and Megan since the late 1990s.

He was made redundant in 2010 and returned to bus driving. He was elected a Unite union shop steward.

He was a keen golfer, and recently took up cycling. His new club described him as "Full of enthusiasm, banter, tall stories and laughs".

He remained a socialist, attending Marxism regularly. A smashing comrade, he will be greatly missed.

**Dave Lyddon and Mario Michalski**



## DEATHS IN CUSTODY

# Azelle Rodney cop walks free after trial

by ANNETTE MACKIN

**A FORMER cop has been cleared of the murder of a man he shot on sight, including four times in the head.**

Anthony Long killed Azelle Rodney in north London in 2005. Police had followed the car Azelle and two other men were travelling in and forced it to a hard stop in Hale Lane, Edgware.

Long said he killed Azelle in self-defence because he believed him to be armed and about to shoot.

He fired eight rounds at the car and admitted to the Old Bailey trial that he did not see Azelle with a weapon.

Azelle sustained injuries to his right upper arm, back, right ear, top of his skull and the right side of his chest.

## Slumped

He was shot first in his arm and sustained the subsequent injuries as he collapsed and became slumped in the back seat of the car.

In 2013 retired high court judge Sir Christopher Holland carried out a report which slammed the cops and found no "lawful" justification for shooting to kill Azelle.

Holland's report said that, had the shooting stopped



A PRESS conference after a report in 2013 into Azelle Rodney's death

after the injury to Azelle's arm, he would have lived.

Long said he continued shooting because Azelle was still sitting upright and posed a threat.

Holland said the shots were aimed at a "dead or dying man".

The trial also heard audio recording of the shooting that contradicted Long's plea of self-defence.

This showed that it could

not be possible for Long to have witnessed all the movements he said Azelle made, assessed that he was about to shoot, decided to open fire, and fire eight times.

The recording of the shooting also recorded another officer saying, "Sweet as, sweet as" as a gun was discharged.

Azelle was the third suspect Long had killed in his career as a police marksman.

Azelle's case is the third high profile police shooting in ten years.

In 2005 police also shot and killed Jean Charles de Menezes. No officer was charged for his murder.

And in 2011 a cop shot and killed Mark Duggan.

He argued that he had an "honest held belief" that his life or those of others were in danger and did not face a murder charge.

## MIGRANT WORKERS

## Suspended for demanding rights at posh Sotheby's

CLEANERS AND porters who work at Sotheby's in London were suspended on Thursday of last week after taking part in a protest for sick pay and against victimisation.

Up to 100 people had gathered outside during an auction that sold an Andy Warhol painting for £20.9 million to draw attention to the treatment of mainly migrant workers who make up the staff.

The subcontracted workers had joined the United Voices of the World (UVW) union, and won a commitment from Sotheby's to pay the London Living Wage in February. The next month the contract shifted to the Servest Group, though the same staff were kept on.

But they were worried by the treatment of UVW union activist Percy Yunganina.

Percy told Socialist Worker, "I have worked at Sotheby's since October 2010. There were never any complaints about my work until I joined the union."

Four union activists were sent home when they arrived for work the morning after the protest and told Sotheby's would not have them on site because of the protest.

●Messages of support to petros.elia@unitedvoices.org.uk  
Protest Reinstate the Sotheby's Four, Wed 8 Jul, assemble 5.30pm, 255-259 Regent St, London W1B 2ER  
Extended report online socialistworker.co.uk

## FRACKING

## Frack Free Scarborough

MORE THAN 100 people attended Frack Free Scarborough's public meeting on Thursday of last week.

It was agreed to petition the local council and to call on the local football team to ditch fracking sponsor Third Energy and to picket Barclays Bank, which owns 97 percent of Third Energy.

Speakers included the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group's Martin Empson, as well as community campaigners and local Green Party spokesperson David Malone.

An activists' meeting is planned for 16 July.  
**Kim Hunter**

## SCOTTISH LEFT

## 'Vote SNP' re-adopted

AROUND 60 members of the Solidarity party met in Glasgow last Saturday to discuss a strategy for the 2016 Scottish elections.

An executive motion calling for a vote for the Scottish National Party in the constituency vote and a vote for Solidarity in the regional list vote was passed by a clear majority. This essentially re-adopted its general election position.

In a fraternal debate Socialist Workers Party members opposed this with others. The decision will make the task of achieving left unity more difficult.

●Longer report online socialistworker.co.uk

## UNITE UNION RULES CONFERENCE

## Can Corbyn re-democratise Labour?

by TONY STAUNTON in Brighton

UNITE UNION delegates gathered for a week's debate in Brighton last Sunday on the rules of the union and how to organise in Britain.

One key debate was on allowing support for parties other than Labour who best represent Unite's policies and beliefs.

Unite took the decision to support Jeremy Corbyn as the anti-austerity candidate for Labour Party leader.

The union had taken a lead in supporting the People's Assembly and the demo of 250,000 in London just weeks before.

But general secretary Len McCluskey moved a statement to delete all amendments seeking support for anti-austerity political



Len McCluskey

candidates. He wanted to maintain the status quo of supporting only the Labour Party for another four years.

After a protracted debate, and despite the general mood of dissatisfaction with the Labour Party and anger over conditions in the workplace, the conference supported the union leadership.

Some delegates argued for

using Corbyn's candidacy to re-democratise Labour as the base of political opposition.

But others argued Labour could never be reclaimed to socialist values. They called for support for socialist candidates from a range of left organisations.

Socialist Workers Party members argued that the status quo has been broken apart by Greek radical left party Syriza, and there is an urgent need for new political formations in Britain, and unity on the left.

The debates outside the conference hall were more damning of any chance of Corbyn winning, or Labour changing its commitment to austerity. The conference continues all week.

●Longer report online socialistworker.co.uk

## ANTI-FASCISM

## Counter demos keep Nazis in check

HUNDREDS OF anti-fascists took to the streets last Saturday in Sheffield and London.

A 400-strong crowd from across South Yorkshire joined a counter demo in Sheffield to oppose the English Defence League (EDL).

The fascists' "national" mobilisation attracted just 200 to try and whip up hatred against Muslims. They are trying to capitalise on the horrific cases of child abuse in South Yorkshire that came to light recently.

They want to propagate the lie that there is a specific connection between Islam and the grooming of young women.

The message that came across loud and clear from the anti-fascists on the day was "Justice for the victims—don't let the racists divide us!"

The EDL rabble was escorted away and Unite Against Fascism held a short



Anti-fascists protesting in London last Saturday

march to show that the racists are not welcome.

Meanwhile a Nazi demonstration in central London was dwarfed by a counter-protest of anti-fascists.

Some 200 people turned out to oppose a rally by some 20 Nazis in Westminster. The fascists had initially planned a demonstration in Golders

Green—a north London area with a large Jewish population.

This was moved to central London by police.

Joshua Bonehill, a white supremacist who was behind the protest, was arrested and charged with inciting racial hatred ahead of the demonstration.

**Thanks to Jay Williams**



# STRIKE CAN BEAT THE TUBE BOSSES

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

**"THERE WILL be no Tube service from late afternoon on Wednesday 8 July and no Tube service at all on Thursday 9 July," Transport for London (TfL) announced this week.**

This is due to a 24-hour walkout by all four Tube workers' unions RMT, Aslef, TSSA and Unite, set to begin at 6.30pm on Wednesday of this week.

Four million daily Tube passengers will be affected, with 11 lines and 260 stations closed.

One Brixton Tube driver told Socialist Worker the mood in the depot was "electric" as the strike approached. "That's because we're united and all out together."

Bosses have no answer to a strike of all grades and all unions. It shows the power of organised workers to lead a fight against austerity.

Bosses are trying to impose worse conditions for workers as part of their plans for Night Tube operations in September.

Being forced to potentially work an unlimited number of weekends or nights is another huge issue for workers. So is this year's derisory pay offer.



RMT PICKETS at Lambeth North station, south London, during the Tube strike last year

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Talks fell apart when unions rejected bosses' "final offer". After months of nothing bosses gave the unions one afternoon to consider it.

## Cynical

London RMT said it was "divisive, cynical and an insult to every one of us".

"We don't accept ultimatums," said the Tube driver. "We need to maintain the

unity of the workforce across the Tube.

"And we must not allow our union leaderships to entertain management attempts to divide us on the basis of grade or the union badge worn by workers."

The last strike of such strength was in 1989.

Then it started unofficially, and involved all Tube unions alongside strikes on the

buses. Now Unite, the main union on London's buses, has a live pay dispute and faces calls to come out alongside any further Tube walkouts.

The fight on the Tube isn't just about TfL. It's about a Tory government going to war with the unions, determined to drive through cuts and privatisation.

TfL bosses and the Tory London mayor want

compliant workers and weak trade unions to push through more attacks such as the ticket office closures that began this year. These have made it harder for passengers including disabled people to get help when they travel.

It is crucial that the unions' determination continues to match that of the bosses who are driving through their Tory agenda.

## Resistance is Underground

THREE other RMT disputes on London Underground were set to see industrial action this week.

Station staff are also striking as part of the 24-hour walkout over the loss of 800 jobs.

Workers are to be more "flexible" and sent to work anywhere on the network at 24 hours notice. An increase in lone working will also pose serious safety implications.

This has a wider significance because it shows the bosses' vision for the whole Tube network.

Train maintenance workers planned to begin an overtime ban in a row over bosses use of agency-employed workers.

And Jubilee Line workers were set to take action over imposed changes "to decrease safety checks".

## Strikers halt Great Western robbery

SOME 2,000 First Great Western workers were set to walk out for 48 hours from 6.30pm on Wednesday of this week after voting by 80 percent to strike.

Bosses have refused to give the workers' union, RMT, "very basic assurances" on jobs, service and safety on new intercity trains the company is introducing.

The union has asked First Great Western to keep a guard on every train and critical station dispatch staff who are safety competent. Workers also want buffet car facilities to remain on every train, maintenance to stay in-house and no job losses.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said the fact these



assurances hadn't been forthcoming was "ludicrous" as East Coast, bringing in the same trains, had done so.

Cash pointed out the trains were publicly funded and

said bosses were "milking the rotten rail privatisation racket for every penny they can".

The firm grabbed £1 billion in subsidies last year.

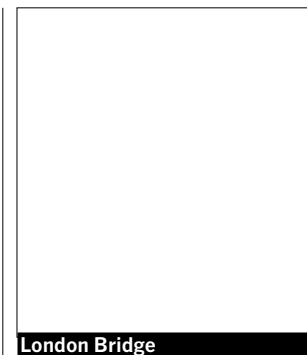
## Southern engineers to walk out for five days, Northern workers vote for action

OVER 200 engineers working for Southern Rail are set to strike for five days from 5pm this Sunday, preceded by a two-day overtime ban.

The action will particularly affect routes into London's Victoria and London Bridge stations from Surrey and Sussex.

London Bridge already faces frequent delays and overcrowding due to ongoing engineering work, not carried out by Southern.

Workers are angry that bosses can find ways to squeeze more work out of them, for no extra reward—



but can't seem to work out how to reduce their hours to 35 a week.

New rosters have also been imposed that cut workers' rest days and

increase their night shifts.

And now Southern bosses claim that workers are no longer covered by a long-term agreement that protects their rights if a depot is closed or there are job cuts.

MEANWHILE at Northern Rail, station staff and guards have voted by 80 percent to strike over the threat to jobs, safety and the creation of a two-tier workforce.

Strike dates had not been announced as Socialist Worker went to press.